

Date : JUNE 10, 2014

Honorable United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Representative John Garamendi
2438 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Garamendi:

On behalf of the North Delta Conservancy (NDC), I am writing in support of pending federal legislation *S.228* (Feinstein) and *H.R. 1004* (Garamendi) – *The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Establishment Act*. This legislation would designate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as the first National Heritage Area (NHA) in the State of California.

The NDC is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation formed in 1991, as a land trust in the northern Sacramento River Delta Region. The Mission of the NDC is to conserve, sustain and enhance the cultural, agricultural, recreational, wildlife and natural habitat resources of the River Delta region and to develop and promote sustainable protection, management and stewardship programs through research and education.

We recognize a Delta NHA as a means to further highlight the Delta's unique natural, cultural, recreational, and agricultural resources. We believe that the Delta is uniquely suited for NHA designation due to its historical and contemporary importance as an extensive habitat area, cultural landscape, world food supplier, and recreational oasis. In addition to economic development benefits, the NHA would be a valuable tool to educate persons from throughout the world about the Delta's important history, as well as some of the current challenges it is facing.

The NDC received a presentation from Delta Protection Commission (DPC) staff in early stages of the DPC's *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area*. We applaud the DPC's public outreach and involvement efforts throughout all phases of the *Feasibility Study*, and support the proposal for the DPC to serve as the NHA management entity, as stated in the pending legislation. If designated, we look forward to discussion with the DPC on potential partnership projects which could help enhance both of our efforts.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. Once again, NDC supports pending federal legislation *S.228* (Feinstein) and *H.R. 1004* (Garamendi) to designate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a National Heritage Area. Thank you.

Sincerely,

C.D. van Söben Sels

Name : CAREL DIRK VAN LOBEN SELS

Title : TREASURER

cc: Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission